

lane and other semi-barbaric conquerors, the destruction of ancient art and frontiers, and the compression of the Empire within comparatively narrow limits.

Still, these limits include an area about thrice the size of France, the sovereign has reassumed the title of King of Kings, Persia takes her own place—and that not a low one—in the comity of nations, and the genuine Persians retain vitality enough to compel the allegiance of the numerically important tribes included within their frontiers, though scarcely more than 30,000 soldiers are with the colours at any given time.

Still, under a land system fourteen centuries old, Persia produces cereals enough for home consumption with a surplus for export; her peasants are thrifty and industrious, and their methods of tillage, though among the most ancient on earth, are well adapted to their present needs and the conditions of soil and climate.

Her merchants are able and enterprising, and her sagacious liberality in the toleration of Christians and Jews has added strength to her commercial position.

Though she has lost the high order of civilisation which she possessed centuries before Christ, she has in no sense relapsed into barbarism, and on the whole good order and security prevail.

The condition of modern Persia has to be studied along with that of the configuration of the country. The traveller through Khorasan and Seistan, from the Gulf to Tezd, or from Bushire to Tihiran, views it as a sparsely-

peopled region—a desert with an occasional  
oasis, and  
legitimately describes it as such. The  
traveller through  
the " Bakhtiari mountains," and from  
Burujird through  
Western Persia up to the Sea of Urmi, seeing  
the superb  
pasturages - and perennial streams of the  
Zard-Kuh, the  
Sabz-Kuh, and the Kuh-i-Kang, and the vast  
area of care-  
ful cultivation, sprinkled with towns and  
villages, which